

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A contact plate for fuel cells with a coherent active area on at least one side of the contact plate, said side envisages for contacting a diffusion layer, a fuel cell electrode or an electrolyte membrane, wherein the contact plate is manufactured on the basis of a plate body of passivating, corrosion-resistant metal and wherein the active area consists of a contact surface which over the whole surface comprises a coating of an electrically conductive, corrosion-resistant material, and of recesses, so that the recesses form a channel structure, characterised in that the coating consists of carbon and thermoplastic or duroplastic binding agent for depositing in liquid from and that the coating ~~[(4)]~~ is omitted at least in bottom regions ~~[(5)]~~ of the recesses ~~[(3)]~~.

2 - 11 (Canceled)